

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting on Monday, July 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at the Brooks County Office Building. Commissioners present were: Ms. Myra Exum, Chairperson; Mr. Joe Wingate, Vice Chairman; Mr. Willie Cody; Mr. S. L. Jones; and Mr. James Maxwell. Others present were: Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams; County Clerk; Mr. Vann Parrott; County Attorney.

A. SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – Chair Exum called meeting to order.

1. Funding Options for Recreation, Library, and Economic Development – The City of Quitman has terminated their funding for Recreation and Economic Development; and decreased funding for the Library by \$7,500. Administrator met with Superintendent of Brooks County School System to discuss funding options. The FY2019 request from the City for Recreation was \$70,625; and the cut of the Library budget of \$7,500. The Board discussed the County and Board of Education doing a 50/50 split of the amount between Recreation and the Library for a total of \$78,125.

Administrator proposed deleting the IT position in the FY2019 budget to get the portion for Brooks County; and continue using the same form of IT service currently using. The amount for the IT position is \$38,000 plus \$12,000 of benefits.

Brooks County School System will not assist with funding for Economic Development. The County will have to get funds from other means. One suggestion, to raise the millage rate for Economic Development from .393, use last year digest of .167 mill; and raise millage rate to .560 mill. Board suggested Economic Development move funds from one of their accounts to make up the \$75,000; due to not being supportive of raising taxes.

Tiffany Holmes, Economic Development Director, will meet with the Development Authority Board to discuss the possibility of moving funds to help with funding; and get back with the Board.

After lengthy discussion, Mr. Maxwell made the motion, Mr. Cody seconded; proposing Brooks County partner with Board of Education with 50/50 split to fund Recreation and the Library; the proposed amount for FY2019 from Board of Education for Recreation is \$35,312.50; and for the Library Board of Education amount is \$3,750. The total amount of funding for Brooks County for Recreation is \$109,687.50. Chair Exum called for the vote. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Cody, and Mr. Wingate voted yes. Mr. Jones voted no. Vote was 3 to 1.

2. Washington Street Gym – Mr. Maxwell stated need to take a look at the gym; which has been designated to use as an emergency shelter. He recommended moving elections from Ag Building to the Gym to use as voting precinct; he further stated need to come together and fix it up so everyone can use it. Mr. Jones stated he does not see

spending money to fix it up; and where is money coming from. He is not willing to repair the Gym when the Ag Building needs repairs too. Board asked Administrator to get with McCall Associates and see if still has plans for the Gym.

3. Dry Lake Bridge Repair – Emergency – Bridge before Dixie-Barwick Road is in need of emergency repair; erosion too severe to wait. County Engineer looked at; and Contractor was authorized to begin work. Project will cost approximately \$50,000; will wait until final bill is submitted before determining where funds will come from.

Adjournment

Mr. Maxwell made the motion; Mr. Cody seconded; to adjourn the special called meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Ms. Myra Exum, Chair
Mr. Justin DeVane, Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, Clerk